Next HR financial planning event set

Human Resources is offering a retirement-planning session on “Estate Planning for the Middle Class” Tuesday, May 18, in the Bernhard Center. Reservations are required. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/05/012.shtml for details.

Faculty invited to SoTL Conference

The third annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 21, in the Fetzer Center. The event is open to WMU faculty, and reservations are required.

A professional development workshop, it will focus on how to get research on teaching and learning published. The keynote speaker will be Stacey Lowery Beetz, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Miami University.

Workshop session topics include collaboration, planning, methodology and publication. To make a reservation, contact Carthe Springsteen at kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu or 387-0399. Visit www.wmich.edu/facdev/Programs/Communities.html for more information.

Hearing clinics offered this month

The Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic is offering hearing exams to the University community during May in observance of Better Hearing and Speech Month. Visit www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/05/012.shtml for more information.

Student organization raising funds

The Writing Center Student Association is collecting reusable cans and bottles through May 31 to help 10 writing consultants participate in the European Writers Conference. A container can be provided for departments, and pickup will be twice weekly. For more information, contact kim.ballard@wmich.edu or 387-4466.

Geosciences emeritus to lead U.P. tour

Lloyd Schmaltz, emeritus in geology, will lead a bus tour that explores the geologic wonders of the Upper Peninsula. The tour will begin and end in Marquette, with stops along the way including the Porcupine Mountains, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Tahquamenon Falls, and the Keweenaw Peninsula. It is scheduled for completion in August 2011, with a June 1 groundbreaking.

“The goal is to have a recruiting presence directly in Southeast Michigan by bringing WMU to our prospective students,” says Heard. “It’s our plan to host recruiting events in Royal Oak, as well as to make this a location where prospective students can go to schedule a tour of the WMU campus, drop off an application or meet with an admissions counselor.”

University admissions officers are already in place in the new facility, and Extended University Programs has been working since last fall to launch WMU courses in cooperation with Oakland Community College. Such courses will likely be offered at OCC’s Royal Oak location.

Site preparations beginning for two major projects

Construction season at WMU officially begins this week, with construction fencing going up around the building site for a new student apartment complex between Knollwood Avenue and Kohrman Hall. That long-planned project will result in a completely new, 130,000-square-foot, energy-efficient building directly in front of the existing Sangren Hall. Classes in the new facility will begin in fall 2012.

A second major construction site at the center of campus will be enclosed next month in preparation for construction of the new Sangren Hall. That long-planned work to replace the University’s largest and most heavily used classroom facility will take two years to complete and also is slated for a June 1 groundbreaking.

The project will result in a completely new, energy-efficient building directly in front of the existing Sangren Hall. Classes in the new facility will begin in fall 2012.

Visit the Facilities Management website for details about both construction projects, including how pedestrian pathways around the sites will be configured, what the design and construction timetables are, and how
WMU to host May forums featuring 2010 election candidates

Two campus forums will help familiarize voters with statewide issues and candidates running in the 2010 election who represent large parts of Kalamazoo County.

Both forums will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ferret Center. The Tuesday, May 18, event will feature candidates running in the 60th and 61st state House districts and the Thursday, May 27, event will feature those running in the 20th state Senate district.

The outcome of the August primaries and November general election will shape the direction of Michigan for the next decade and beyond. All statewide offices are up for election, none with an incumbent. Term limits will force a large turnover in the Legislature, and there will be a statewide proposal for a constitutional convention.

Gordon Evans, “Morning Edition” anchor of public radio station WMUK, will moderate the first forum, which will include all of the local candidates who will appear on the ballot: (60th district) Democrats Sean McCann and Chris Pradel, and Republican Jeff Fernandez; and (61st district) Democrat Thomas Batten and Republican Margaret O’Brien.

Each candidate will respond to two questions submitted in advance. Candidates will then respond to questions submitted by the audience as selected and read by the moderator. Each candidate will be allowed brief closing remarks.

Still time for students, faculty to comment on accreditation

The University continues to seek input from students and faculty as part of its preparation for a comprehensive evaluation aimed at continuing its accreditation.

Public comment on the University’s bid for continued accreditation and its self-study report has been part of the process all spring. The public comment opportunity will now move to a process known as third-party comment, which is designed to ensure that those interested have an opportunity to add their comments for consideration as the University is evaluated.

Visit the Higher Learning Commission at www.ncsce.org/information-for-the-public/third-party-comment.html to make third-party comments. Go to www.wmich.edu/hlc to review the self-study report.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Preview set for film shot at WMU

Two free screenings today give the campus community a chance to preview the independent film “Cherry,” shot in 2008 on the WMU and Kalamazoo College campuses. The screenings will be held at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre.

Faculty, staff and students who worked on the film received invitations, and admission tickets are needed for others. If any tickets are left, up to four may be picked up between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. today at the Miller Auditorium box office. Any leftover tickets will be offered at the door before tonight’s screenings.

The on-campus “Cherry” preview is being staged by writer and director Jeffrey Fine and his brother, co-producer Matthew Fine, to thank the campus community for its work on the film. Following each screening, the filmmakers will make brief comments and take questions and comments from the audience.

A free preview also is planned for the Kalamazoo College community. “Cherry’s” Michigan premier is expected to take place during the Waterfront Film Festival June 10-13 in Saugatuck, Mich.

New book on nanoethics published

Fritz Allhoff, philosophy, has co-written a new book that engages the rising tide of interest and concern over nanoethics.

“All That Nanotechnology and Why Does it Matter? From Science to Ethics” was published in early May by Wiley-Blackwell.

Allhoff penned the book with Patrick Lin and Daniel Moore. Allhoff and Lin co-edited two nanoethics anthologies and co-founded the Nanoethics Group. Moore is a member of that group’s advisory board.

“All That Nanotechnology and Why Does it Matter?” is one of the first monographs to be written by experts from both the technical and nontechnical sides of the field.

Allhoff, an associate professor of philosophy, joined the WMU faculty in 2005. He has been his department’s director of graduate studies since 2008 and an adjunct faculty member in the Mallinson Institute since 2007.

ROTC scholarship honors retiree

Kris Kenz, Facilities Management-maintenance services, established a scholarship in 2008 in honor of her father. The Herbert W. Kenz Army ROTC Cadet Scholarship is fully endowed thanks to donations from family members and WMU ROTC program alumni and friends, but gifts are still being accepted.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Herb Kenz earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from WMU in 1952 and was in the University’s second group of commissioned cadets. He retired in July 1988 after a total of 42 years in the Army and Army Reserves. His civilian career included 23 years of service to WMU, where he rose to associate director of student financial aid before retiring in 1988. Visit www.wmich.edu/rotc/news.html for more details.

Grad student wins playwriting award

G. William Zorn, a doctoral student in the creative writing program, has won the prestigious Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting from the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival. He won the nationwide prize for his play “Princess Has No Superman.”

The award included a $2,500 cash prize, a playwriting residency with a professional theatre company, possible publication from Dramatic Publishing Co., a production grant and a trip to the Kennedy Center/ACTF national festival April 12-18 in Washington, D.C. at the festival, he received his award and participated in a weekend playwriting workshop with theatre professionals and fellow award-winning college playwrights.

Zorn earned an associate degree in communication from Illinois Central College, a bachelor’s degree in theatre from Eastern Illinois University and a master’s degree in playwriting from Ohio University.
Dunn notes state's disinvestment in higher education during hearing

The cost of tuition at WMU would be about 38 percent lower today if the state had maintained its commitment to funding higher education, WMU President John M. Dunn pointed out during testimony May 3 in front of the Michigan Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Dunn said that in 1980, the state supplied 70 percent of the University's funding. Students who worked full time during the summers and part time during the academic year could cover the cost of tuition and fees and still have money left for incidentals.

But Dunn said that is no longer possible in 2010, when the state is covering only 33 percent of the cost.

Dunn also noted that state financial aid to WMU students plummeted this year from $5.7 million to $843,000 with the loss of the Michigan Promise and other scholarships. He said he is often questioned by people about why the state is still funneling financial aid into private institutions.

In wide-ranging testimony during the hearing that was held at Northern Michigan University, Dunn also affirmed that:

• WMU continues to be the state's best buy among its research universities, but the University will see tuition increase this fall.

• He's committed to phasing out a one-time $300 records initiation fee paid by incoming students that has been in place since 2004.

• The University is exploring the idea of differential tuition, but is looking at a model that would wrap fees into the new tuition structure.

In addition, Dunn asked the panel to use existing state capital outlay funds to help WMU construct a new Sangren Hall. "We need help with Sangren funding," he said. "...My board has already said, 'We cannot wait. We've waited 20 years. We can't wait any longer.' So we're going to do it, and if we do it and we have to bond ourselves—and indebted ourselves—we all know what happens. It's going to translate to another 3 percent in tuition adjustment to our students to carry that." Dunn closed with a request that the House do what it can to counter a Senate higher education budget that calls for a 3.1 percent decrease in appropriation to all of the state's public universities.

Go to www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/05/008.shtml for a link to the complete hearing online.

Committee seeks supporting materials for selection of 2010's top staffers

Twenty-one staff members are in the running for 2010 Make a Difference annual awards, which carry a $1,200 prize. The candidates are recipients of 2009-10 fall and spring semiannual awards through the Make a Difference program. As such, they are eligible to be considered for one of the four annual awards bestowed by this peer-to-peer staff recognition program.

Monday, May 3, is the deadline to submit materials in support of the following staffers recipients of the annual awards:

• Donna "Kim" Ballard, Writing Center; Virginia Bowby, Graduate College; John Carr, WMU Bookstore; Teresa "Teri" Cleveland, Extended University Programs; online education; Douglas Gray, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Nancy Johnson, Investments and Endowment Management; Darrell Jenkins, Facilities Management-landscape services; Robyn Lenkart, chemistry; Lillian Love, First-Year Experience Programs; Thuy Martin, Dining Services-Berkhard Center; Eric McConnell, Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs; Patricia Nelson, philosophy; Raymond Novess, Facilities Management-construction services; Ken O'Connor, Facilities Management-maintenance services; Gregory Peet, University Libraries; Stephen Root, Facilities Management-landscape services; Dion VanArter, intercollegiate athletics; Margaret von Steinen, Harnewick Institute; Jesse Wagner, Haworth College of Business Career Center; Adam Wall, residence life; and Paige Warner, First-Year Experience Programs.

The annual Make a Difference award is reserved for exceptional employees—those who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents, making the University an even finer place to work and study. The four winners will be named in June and honored during this fall's Academic Convocation.

The selection committee will review new information submitted for the 21 candidates, as well as the semiannual nomination materials that were previously submitted for the candidates. Anyone wishing to submit new information should e-mail specifics, examples of how their candidates have demonstrated dedication to outstanding service.

Send submissions to the Make a Difference Selection Committee by e-mail to make-a-difference@wmich.edu, online at www.wmich.edu/hr/make-a-difference, fax to 387-3441 or campus mail in care of Human Resources at Mail Stop 5217.

Obituary

Kenneth B. Farrance, a former director of Miller Auditorium, died May 4 in Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo. He was 82.

Farrance had a career as a radio engineer for several radio stations before joining Miller's staff as a soundman in 1967, just before the newly constructed facility opened. He was named manager in 1982 and retired in 1988.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Heart Association or the Michigan Maritime Museum.

Avis Sebaly—The previously announced memorial service for Sebaly, emeritus in education and professional development, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22, in the Kiva of Friendship Village in Kalamazoo.

Marie Stevens—The previously announced memorial service for Stevens, dean emerita of students, will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 14, at the Gilmore Alumni House, 1219 Short Road in Kalamazoo.
Warfield to receive top Michigan ACE award June 8

Martha Warfield, associate vice president for diversity and inclusion, will receive the top honor from the state affiliate of the American Council on Education Network during the Michigan ACE annual conference June 7-8 at Michigan State University.

Warfield and Kathleen M. Wilbur, a Central Michigan University vice president, will receive the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award.

Site preparations for projects continued from page 1

the buildings will look when completed.

Webcams will be placed at the construction sites so the campus community may track each project’s progress.

Additional significant summer construction and remodeling projects will be reported in future issues of the Western News.

The projects scheduled for this summer include moving the Center for Academic Success Programs to Ellsworth Hall, steam-line work impacting a portion of the west side of University Arena and, as previously reported, a major renovation of the Davis Dining Hall, which will impact the hall’s parking lot.

On Campus with Tim Herrmann

Tim Herrmann is one of WMU’s biggest sports fans. His job as head strength and conditioning coach for Olympic sports is to schedule workouts and design programs for student athletes on 16 teams—every sport the University has to offer but football, which is handled by strength and conditioning coach Nathaniel Peoples.

That requires him to be in tune with the performance and goals of every player and every team. You’ll see him at every University sporting event he can fit into his busy schedule.

“It’s part of the job. Going to the games is where you see what they need to work on. It helps me design a program to work on a weakness,” he says. “The biggest reward is seeing our athletes succeed and knowing that I had a hand in that, however small that may be.

“I love it when they win, and I hate it when they lose—as much as they do,” he adds.

During a team’s season, Herrmann works with athletes to maintain their strength and prevent injuries. It’s during the off-season that these athletes build on their skills and work on specific areas to improve.

“We’re always working with teams to figure out what works best for them. It’s an ever-changing field, and there’s constant education of what is new,” Herrmann says. “Not every team is the same, and we don’t train them the same.”

Herrmann graduated from WMU in 2001 with a bachelor’s degree in exercise science. He interned for two years at the University and served a year as a graduate assistant before being hired in his current job in 2002. He hails from Santee, Calif., a town about the size of Kalamazoo that is located 120 miles north of Los Angeles.

An athlete himself in high school and while attending WMU, Herrmann played baseball, soccer, basketball and track before a knee injury (ACL) took him out of the game. He won’t admit to having a favorite sport today, but enjoys mixed martial arts and boxing as hobbies.

Another “hobby” consuming much of his time recently is planning his wedding in July with his fiancé, Tanner Moorhead, a fellow WMU graduate who teaches in Three Rivers, Mich.

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WMU, part-time instructors OK inaugural union contract

WMU and its Professional Instructors Organization, the PIO, have reached an agreement on an inaugural three-year contract.

Union members ratified the terms of the agreement in an April 25 vote and University trustees approved the agreement during a May 6 conference-call meeting.

Following the board’s approval, the contract—with some exceptions—went into effect immediately.

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Opening celebration continued from page 1

and Southfield campuses.

Initial focus will be on providing a bachelor’s degree-completion program and WMU’s graduate certificate program in alcohol and drug abuse treatment. The certificate program is designed for working professionals and Detroit-area students at other schools who want added credentials.

“We’re conducting market research and reaching out to sister institutions in the Detroit area to determine how WMU can complement and add value to existing educational opportunities,” says Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs.

Exchange

For sale—Lovely downtown loft with great city views, spa-like bath and loads of extra storage. Granite in kitchen and bath. $148,800. Call 806-9276 or 217-6250.